



County of Los Angeles

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

June 4, 2003

To: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

State Budget Report

On June 3, 2003, a day after the Senate approved SB 53, the FY 2003-04 Budget Bill, on a party line vote, but only after removing all the appropriations and the urgency clause, the Assembly amended the bill to simply be a one-sentence statement of intent to enact a budget. After rejecting a series of Republican amendments, the Assembly approved the bill on a party line vote of 47 to 26. The bill now goes back to the Senate for concurrence, which the Senate will reject and instead request a conference committee to negotiate the real budget bill. The conference committee is scheduled to start this evening.

Status of County-Interest Legislation

County-supported AB 28 (Pavley), which would enact the Firefighting Hazardous Materials Response Team Equipment Act of 2003 to fund the purchase of hazardous material response apparatus and equipment for State and local agencies, was amended on June 2, 2003, to allow the Director of the State Office of Emergency Services to implement the program only upon the legislature's appropriation of Federal funds intended for these purposes. AB 28 remains in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

County-opposed unless amended AB 231 (Steinberg), which would repeal the requirement of statewide fingerprint imaging to determine eligibility for CalWORKs and Food Stamps, passed the Assembly Floor on June 3, 2003 by a vote of 43 to 30. This measure now proceeds to the Senate Desk where it is currently awaiting a policy committee referral. Our Sacramento advocates will continue to oppose this measure

unless it is amended to remove the provision ending the use of statewide fingerprint imaging.

AB 408 (Steinberg), on which the County has been working with the author to resolve concerns regarding potential liability and a phased approach to implementation was amended and passed by the Assembly on May 29, 2003.

AB 408, which seeks to ensure that no child is emancipated from the foster care system without a connection to a committed and caring adult, was amended to require: 1) that the courts determine whether a county welfare agency, in making a placement of a child over the age of nine with a non-relative, has made a reasonable effort to maintain a child's relationships with individuals who are important to the child; and, if necessary, issues orders to maintain those relationships; 2) that county welfare department provide information to dependent children who have reached the age of majority about maintaining relationships with individuals who are important to the child, and provide verification to the court; 3) that the Child Welfare Training Program stress the importance of children maintaining relationships with important individuals, as well as methods to identify those individuals; and 4) that case plans for children 16 years or older must include a written description of programs and services to assist them in independent living, and be developed in consultation with the child and other persons who are important to the child.

AB 408 is currently at the Senate Desk awaiting referral to a policy committee. Our Sacramento advocates will continue to work with the author to have our concerns addressed.

County-supported AB 490 (Steinberg), which seeks to ensure that all students in foster care have the opportunity to meet the same academic achievement standards as other students, and are placed in the least restrictive educational programs with access to the same academic resources and services as other pupils, was amended on June 2, 2003. The amendments replace references to probation officers and social workers with county-placing agencies, and allow access to school records by county-placing agencies to facilitate their educational case management responsibilities. This measure remains on the Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File.

County-supported AB 1154 (Frommer), which would exempt the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) positions that are funded by the Hospital Building Fund (HBF) from any State hiring freezes and curtailments, and authorizes OSHPD to increase staffing financed by the HBF, was amended on June 2, 2003, to delete the language making a continuous appropriation from the HBF without regard to fiscal years until the annual Budget Act is enacted, and made AB 1154 an urgency bill

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so it will become effective immediately upon being signed by the Governor. It awaits a hearing date in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

County-supported if amended SB 663 (Speier), regarding tax-defaulted property subject to sale, passed the Senate Floor on May 29, 2003, and is now at the Assembly Desk awaiting referral to a policy committee.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK
MAL:JR:EW:ib

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
 County Counsel
 Local 660
 All Department Heads
 Legislative Strategist
 Coalition of County Unions
 California Contract Cities Association
 Independent Cities Association
 League of California Cities
 City Managers Associations

June 5, 2003

Honorable Gray Davis
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Davis:

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to reiterate our strong opposition to the elimination of the Statewide Fingerprint Imaging System (SFIS).

On January 22, 2003, our Board wrote to you urging the continuation of SFIS. We continue to firmly support SFIS as an important welfare fraud prevention measure. Our County developed the predecessor of SFIS, the Los Angeles County Automated Fingerprint Image Reporting and Match (AFIRM) system, which virtually eliminated multiple case fraud from the AFDC and General Relief caseloads. Given the proven effectiveness of the AFIRM system in Los Angeles County, we believe that the SFIS program is too critical a tool for fighting fraud not to be continued. Moreover, if SFIS is eliminated, CalWORKs grant costs will increase by far more than the cost of maintaining SFIS.

We appreciate your support for SFIS. Unfortunately, both the Assembly and Senate have eliminated funding for SFIS, as well as its related statutory requirements. Our Board believes that the elimination of SFIS is a mistake that will cost the State far more than the \$10 million it would cost to maintain SFIS. We urge you to seek continued funding for SFIS in your negotiations with the Legislature over the details of the final budget.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE
Chair of the Board
Supervisor, Second District

The Governor
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bcc: Board of Supervisors
Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Director, Department of Public Social Services